



Arizona Attorney General

Terry Goddard

Educating • Protecting • Empowering

Arizona Consumers

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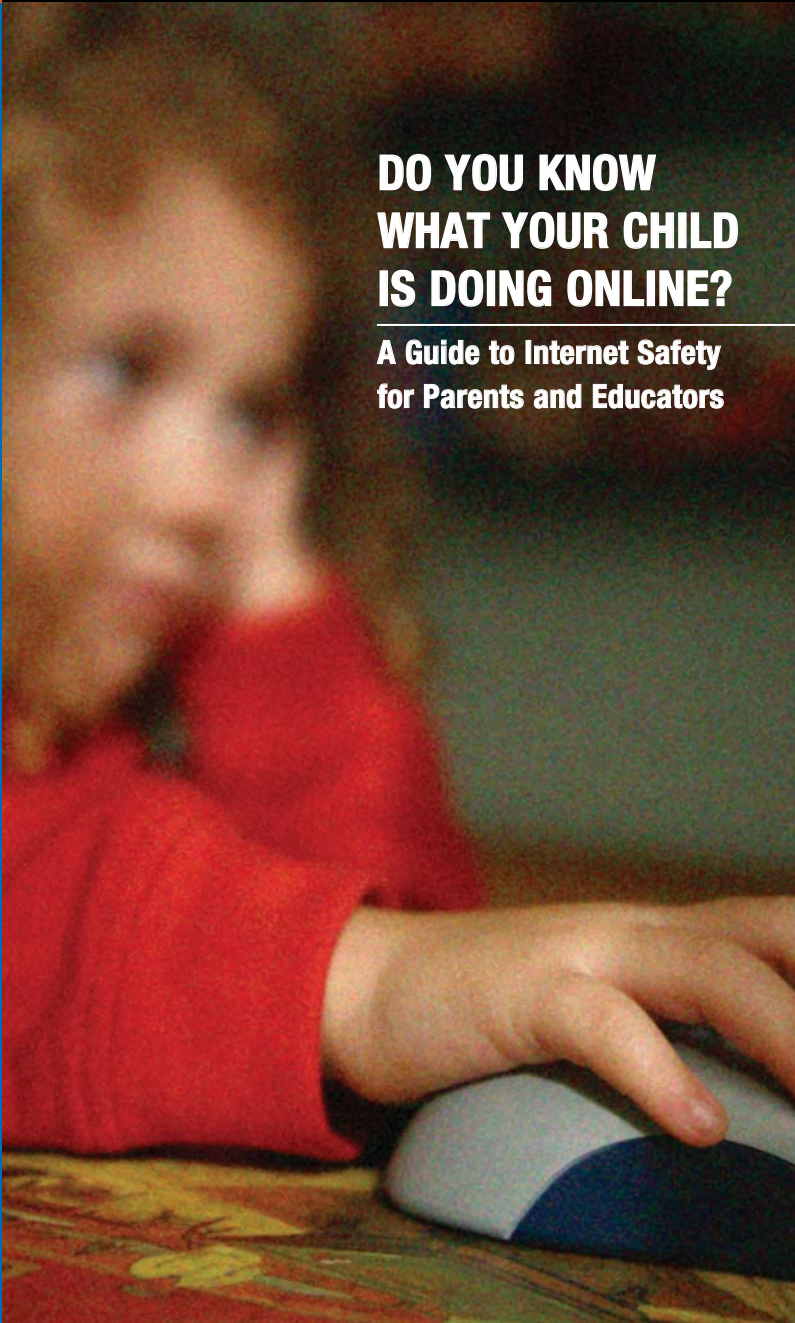
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**DO YOU KNOW
WHAT YOUR CHILD
IS DOING ONLINE?**

**A Guide to Internet Safety
for Parents and Educators**



Acknowledgments

Many individuals and groups helped make this Internet Safety Initiative possible. We want to especially acknowledge the Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (AICAC), the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and NetSmartz Workshop, Arizona Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs and Common Sense Media.

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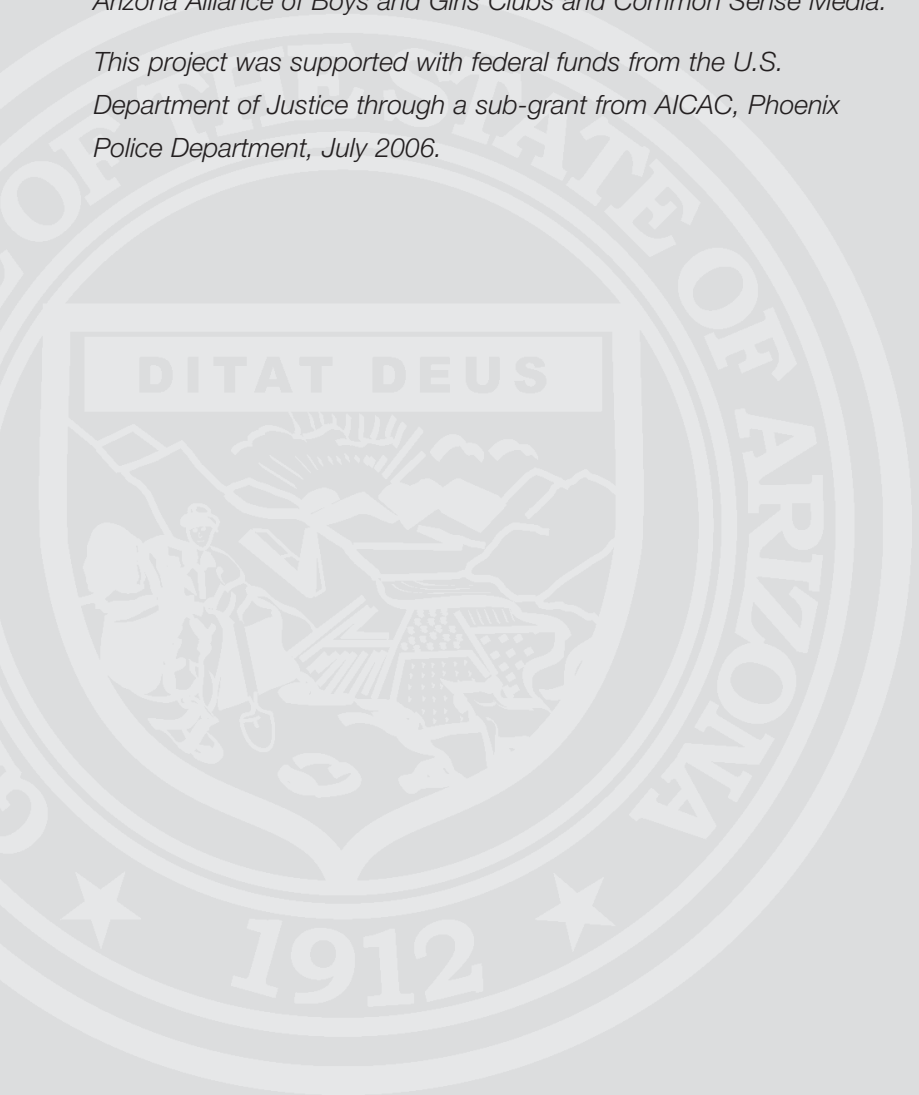




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Message from Attorney General Terry Goddard

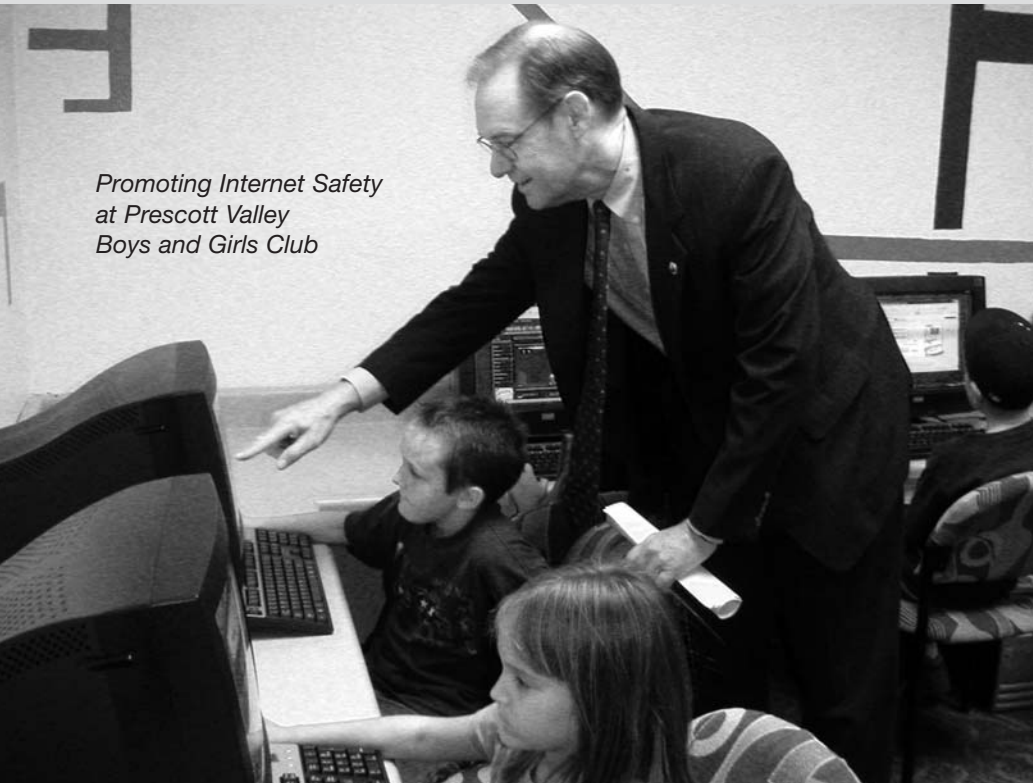
Summer 2006

While the Internet is an enormous resource and one of the major technological achievements of our lifetime, it is also used by adults who are seeking to exploit children. Protecting children from Internet predators and scam artists is a very serious responsibility, because most children are ahead of their parents in their knowledge of computers and the Internet.

Our children are smart enough to use a computer, but not always wise enough to protect themselves from online strangers or graphic Web sites. The good news is while many teens are sharing personal information online and putting themselves in potentially harmful situations, the research shows that when parents and

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*Promoting Internet Safety
at Prescott Valley
Boys and Girls Club*





guardians talk to their teens about Internet Safety, their exposure to potential threats decline and they make safer online decisions.

Just as you supervise how and when your children learn to ride a bicycle, you can teach them how to safely use the Internet. This guide and accompanying video are designed to help parents learn how to protect their children and where to find help to reduce online risks. If your school, church or community group would like



a presentation on Internet Safety, please contact the Attorney General Community Services Program at 602.542.2123 (1.866.358.6661 outside Maricopa County) or communityservices@azag.gov.

As a parent, I believe we must strengthen our efforts to shield our children from the dangerous side of the Internet. I am confident we can make their online experiences safer and more productive. Be sure to "Surf Safe, Surf Smart"!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terry Goddard". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "T" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Terry Goddard
Arizona Attorney General

Background: Online Risks for Children

- *71% of teens 13-17 reported receiving messages online from someone they don't know. When teens receive messages online from someone they don't know, 40% reported that they'll usually reply and chat with that person but only 18% said they'll tell an adult.*
- *45% of teens 13-17 have been asked for personal information by someone they don't know.*
- *30% of teens 13-17 surveyed have considered meeting someone that they have only talked to online and 14% have actually had such an encounter.*

Teenage Research Unlimited. Teen Internet Safety Survey. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Cox Communications, 2006.

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- *1 in 4 youths 10-17 has been exposed to sexually explicit pictures online without seeking or expecting them.*
- *1 in 5 youths between the ages of 10 and 17 has received unwanted sexual solicitations online. Less than 10% of sexual solicitations and only 3% of unwanted exposure episodes were reported to authorities such as a law-enforcement agency, an Internet Service Provider or a hotline.*
- *1 in 17 youths 10-17 has been threatened or harassed online. Only about half of the children who were threatened or harassed reported the incident to their parents.*
- *Only 17% of youth 10-17 and approximately 10% of parents could name a specific authority, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, CyberTipline or an Internet Service Provider, to which they could make a report.*

David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell and Janis Wolak. Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth. Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2000, page ix.



Solicitation by a Child Predator: How It Can Happen

"There are dangerous people out there cruising the Internet looking for kids," said Dr. Frank Kardasz, Phoenix Police Sergeant.

"Parents need to pay close attention to who their children are communicating with when they're on their computer." Dr. Kardasz directs the Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (AICAC), which includes investigators from 26 municipal, county and federal agencies. The task force has investigated more than 1,700 cases since 2000 and made more than 200 arrests.

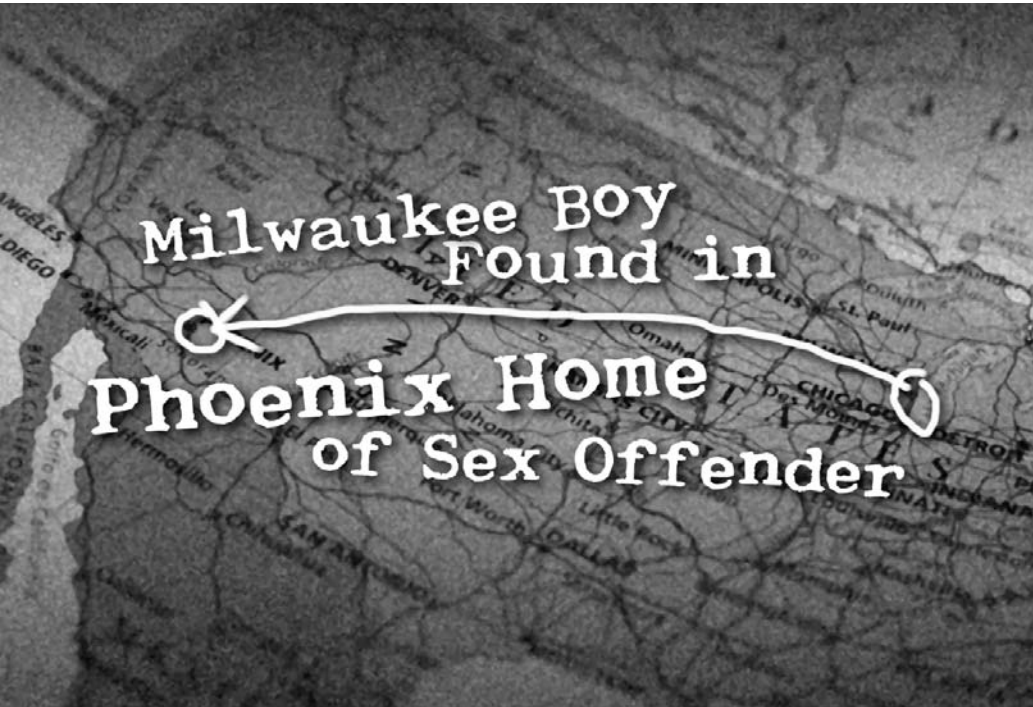
From the Case Files of AICAC

Milwaukee Boy Found in Phoenix Home of Sex Offender

Arizona Republic, Aug. 23, 2005

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Phoenix police say the experience of the 13-year-old Milwaukee boy they found in the company of a man they suspect of using the Internet to lure the child to town is one that parents need to take to heart. Dr. Frank Kardasz, Director of the Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, said Milwaukee police had received a missing persons report from the boy's mother. Investigators went into her son's computer and found that he had been communicating regularly with a person using a Phoenix wireless Internet site. "We went to the address of the wireless user and pretty quickly found he was an innocent person whose wireless service was being used by someone else," Dr. Kardasz said. "Through investigative work, law enforcement established who was using the wireless connection, we watched his house, and soon the man drove up with the boy in his car." At about 11:30 p.m. police arrested V.M., age 31.



The suspect had no ID and was using a false name and a fictitious license plate and pretending to be the boy's father to people in the neighborhood. V.M. was arrested for custodial interference and booked into a Maricopa County Jail. Police also learned that there is an outstanding arrest warrant for V.M. from Seminole County, Okla., for a sexual offense against a minor. The boy was taken to the county's Juvenile Court Center to stay until his mother could arrange for his return home.

The Grooming Process

Predators will use any means possible to observe, approach and then groom their victims. Such means include chat rooms, personal blogs and networking sites. Predators rely on the inexperience of their potential victims, and they know what to say and do to gain their trust. A recent study found that most children who agree to meet face-to-face with an adult do so willingly. They are not tricked or coerced.

David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell and Janis Wolak, "Internet-Initiated Sex Crimes Against Minors: Implications for Prevention Based on Findings from a National Study," Journal of Adolescent Health 11 (2004).

Searching the Chat Rooms

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A **chat room** is an online forum where two or more people can communicate via typed messages that are displayed almost instantly. Participants in a chat room can view all of the messages posted at once on their screen. The Internet hosts millions of chat rooms geared to teens. Most Internet Service Providers have a listing of chat rooms on their home page. Kids typically seek out chat rooms tailored to their interests or specific to the area they live in. Here are some examples of chat room sites visited by teens:

- *chat.msn.com*
- *peopleconnection.aol.com*
- *chat.yahoo.com*
- *chat.myspace.com*
- *chat.google.com*



All of these Web sites devoted to teens have sections for chats, posting personal profiles, photos and other means for communication. Some chat rooms now allow “voice chat” and Web cam chat. These features enable your child to videoconference with strangers. Hate groups are also using very sophisticated Web sites to recruit kids.

A predator pays close attention to the conversations taking place in the chat room and to the participants’ **screen names** to learn how to approach a victim. A screen name is the name a participant uses online. A screen name of “CoronadoGoalie1992,” for example, might indicate that the child is a 14-year-old who is interested in soccer. Knowing this information, an adult who is seeking to exploit or harm a child may then assume an identity that would be likely to attract the attention of that child. If they assume the screen name of “SoccerGirl,” for instance, and then send an Instant Message (IM) to the victim, the youth might believe the person she is chatting with is a young girl with a similar interest. Internet accounts should be in the parent’s name with parents having the primary screen name, controlling passwords and using blocking and/or filtering devices.

“Predators use chat rooms as their main method of meeting and then grooming children. The grooming includes sympathizing with adolescent problems, offering psychological support and being enthusiastic about their interests,” said Dr. Kardasz of AICAC. The ultimate goal of the grooming process is to arrange for a face-to-face meeting with the child.

Finding Similar Interests

Even if a predator does not gather revealing or useful information from a child's screen name, he or she can still use the screen name to determine whether the child has completed an online profile. Many teen-oriented chat rooms and blogs encourage users to create a **personal profile**. Sixty-one percent of 13-17 year olds have a personal profile on social networking sites such as MySpace, Friendster or Xanga. Half have posted pictures of themselves online.

Teenage Research Unlimited. Teen Internet Safety Survey. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Cox Communications, 2006.

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Personal profiles may include photographs and personal information, such as email address, interests and hobbies, school, sports teams, address or phone number. Once a profile has been located, the person who has obtained it can easily send email or instant messages directly to the child. Most sites that maintain user profiles give users the option to make their profile "private." This means that other users cannot gain access to their information. Parents should talk to their children to make sure that their profiles are set to "private" and their information is secure.

Keeping the Relationship a Secret

After establishing a shared interest, a predator will work to build trust and convince the child that he or she is a better friend to the child than other friends or family members. As the grooming process continues and the predator cements the relationship with the child, the predator will likely ask the child to keep the relationship secret.

If youngsters seek the comfort and support of someone they met online while keeping that relationship secret from their families, trouble often follows. Later, this secrecy may be used as a weapon against the child. An adult who wants to exploit a child may threaten to expose the relationship to the child's parents or threaten to harm the child or his or her family if the child tries to end the relationship.

“Most children do not inform their parents when they face a difficult situation online, such as being contacted by someone they don’t know. The main reasons for their hesitation are embarrassment and fear of losing access to the Internet.”

Assistant Attorney General Gail Thackeray

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If you suspect your child is communicating with an online sexual predator, immediately contact the CyberTipline at www.cybertipline.com or 1.800.THE.LOST (1.800.843.5678). The CyberTipline is part of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, which coordinates the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate Internet crimes against children.

Cyberstalking

Gathering Personal Information

In addition to gathering personal information about a child through an online personal profile, chat room discussion or the child's screen name, a predator might also use an online discussion group. **Discussion groups** (or **message boards**) are like public electronic bulletin boards, where participants can read and add (or "post") comments about a specific topic. Discussion groups are different from chat rooms in that they are not live discussions. Users can make or respond to a post at any time. Using an email address obtained from a child's online profile, someone who is seeking to exploit or harm a child can join a group and look for items the child has posted that contain more information. For instance, if a child has posted an item for sale, they might have provided a telephone number where buyers can call for more details. From there, the predator can narrow the search by tracking the child. A predator can use the telephone area code and online resources to determine the state where the child resides. They may be able to use the telephone number to determine the last name and address of the family through a reverse phone look-up. With time and research, someone who is stalking your child may be able to find their way right to your door. Tracking Teresa is a real life story that illustrates how personal information posted online can provide clues to predators and place a child in danger. This video program was produced by the NetSmartz Workshop and is available at netsmartz.org/resources/reallife.



Blogs and Social Networking

The term "blog" is a shortened form of "Web log." A blog might detail the thoughts and daily activities of its creator or be devoted to commentary about a sports team or performer. Visitors can read each other's comments and communicate directly with one another.

Blogging and social networking sites like MySpace, Friendster, Xanga and Facebook have been linked to recent incidents involving Internet crimes against children. These sites have exploded in popularity. The number of visitors to MySpace went from 4.9 million in 2005 [Janet Kornblum, "Teens hang out at MySpace," *USA Today*, January 8, 2006, http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-01-08-myspace-teens_x.htm?csp=34] to over 67 million this year [April 3, 2006, <http://www.myspace.com>].



Young people connect with friends and seek like-minded individuals. The unprecedented amount of personal information available on blogs and social networking sites makes them a perfect place for people who would harm children to identify their victims and gain their trust. This trust can be used to lure children and teens into a false sense of security, making them vulnerable to "grooming" and enticement to meet in person, which could have very serious consequences.

Parents should familiarize themselves with these sites and consider signing up for an account on sites that their children frequent. This provides the opportunity to know what is going on in your child's world, allowing you to better relate to and watch over them.

“Parents need to look at the personal profiles their children are leaving and make sure there is no personal information that can be used to track them (phone number, school, city or their sports team). Most of all, parents need to establish guidelines with their son or daughter for computer use. If parents suspect something is wrong, they need to take action.”

Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard

Think Before Posting

Some children do not realize that what they post on blogs or networking sites is public and can be viewed by anyone. Parents are often shocked to see what their children have written online and some of those postings can lead to serious trouble. Sexy or revealing photographs can attract predators. Students who have posted threatening words against their school or classmates have attracted the attention of school administrators and law enforcement. **Many university administrators or potential employers also search the Web for information posted by a prospective enrollee or employee.**

Photo Sharing, Digital Cameras, Web Cams and Camera Phones

Photo-sharing sites, like Album, Flickr and Photolog, allow members to post photos for others to see. Some photos are available for unrestricted viewing, while others may be in password-protected areas. Like networking sites, these sites also allow commentary and messaging among users.

Networking and photo-sharing sites are also related to another area of growing concern regarding children and the Internet. This problem centers on the inappropriate use of digital cameras and computer-based cameras (Web cams). Just as parents and guardians monitor and control their children's overall use of the Internet, they need to supervise the use of these photographic tools.

Digital cameras, especially easy-to-use versions marketed to children, have made it simple to take pictures that are easy to hide from parents. Computers have made it easy to post or email these photographs. Some young people are experimenting with this technology while exploring their sexuality by taking explicit or revealing pictures of themselves or others.

Some young people are using **Web cams** to transmit sexually explicit videos of themselves. Web cams, which are inexpensive and often no bigger than a golf ball, are usually placed on top of a computer monitor. When connected to a computer, these cameras send video images that can be viewed instantaneously by one or more computer users. **Adults who seek to exploit children sometimes mail Web cams to their victims to facilitate online sexual encounters.**

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Camera phones have made it even easier to take photos on the go, including inappropriate photos. In some cases, the subject may not have given permission for the photo to be taken or even know they've been photographed. Camera phone photos can be uploaded to a computer just as easily as photos from a standard digital camera. **Once the photograph has made its way to the Internet, it remains in circulation forever.**

Chat Room and Instant Message Abbreviations

parents...
know what's being said
online!

LMIRL	let's meet in real life	YBS	you'll be sorry
NP	nosy parent	WIBNI	wouldn't if be nice if...
OLL	on-line love	121	one to one
P911	my parents are coming	WTGP	want to go private?
PA	parent alert	A/S/L	age, sex, location
PAL	parents are listening	WUF	where are you from?
PANB	parents are nearby	WFM	works for me
PM	private message	SAW	siblings are watching
POS	parents over shoulder	TOS	teacher over shoulder
IPN	I'm posing naked	DIKU	do I know you?
NIFOC	naked in front of the computer	W/E	whatever
		TAW	teachers are watching

Acronyms are often used in instant messaging (IM) and online chat conversations as a short-cut to typing entire messages. However, they are also used by young people to secretly communicate when parents or authority figures are present.

Unwanted Exposure to Sexual Material

While some children seek out sexual material online, a study by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children found that 25 percent of youth had experienced unwanted exposure to sexual pictures on the Internet.

David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell and Janis Wolak. Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth. Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2000, page ix.

Children might accidentally come across a Web site they weren't looking for, either by misspelling a word, typing the wrong domain name or by using search terms. Even searching the words "toy" or "pet" can bring up sexual material. Unsolicited email (commonly known as "spam") can also expose children to sexually oriented material.

Parental Controls

There are a variety of tools available to parents to help ensure that children and teens are indeed taking precautions and staying away from sites that are off limits. A simple way for parents to monitor computer activity is by checking the "History" on a computer's browser to see what sites your children have visited.

Internet Service Providers offer Internet access controls, content filters and parental control options that can help restrict Internet access and protect children from inappropriate material. These services are frequently offered at no additional cost. Information about parental controls and filters can usually be found by visiting the home page of the Internet Service Providers.



Additional protection is available by installing Internet filtering software to block questionable Web sites or allow a child access only to a preapproved list of sites. There are also software products available that allow a parent or caregiver to monitor or track the Web sites a child visits or email messages read, without necessarily blocking access. It is important to be aware of other computers your child is using. More information about filtering and monitoring software is available from *GetNetWise.org*.

In households with home Internet access, one-third of parents said they had filtering or blocking software on their computer at the time they were interviewed.

David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell, and Janis Wolak. Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth. Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2000, page ix.

FBI Warning Signs

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has compiled a list of warning signs that can indicate when a child might be at risk online. These warning signs can be found in the FBI's *A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety* [www.fbi.gov].

Time Spent Online

Your child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night. Most children who fall victim to child predators spend large amounts of time online, particularly in chat rooms. Child predators can be online at any time, but most work during the day and spend their evenings online trying to locate and lure children.

Pornography

You find pornography on your child's computer. Pornography is often used in the sexual victimization of children. Adults who are seeking to exploit children often supply their potential victims with pornography as a means of opening sexual discussions and for seduction. Child pornography may be used in an attempt to show the child victim that sex between children and adults is "normal." Keep in mind that a child might hide pornographic material by storing it on a disk, especially if other family members use the computer.

Phone Use

Your child spends an unusual amount of time on the phone with someone you don't know or talks on the phone late at night. In most cases, Internet predators eventually want to talk to their child victims on the telephone and they often engage in



“phone sex” with the children. This will usually lead to an attempt to set up a face-to-face meeting for real sex. Predators can also use these telephone calls to learn more about the children they are pursuing. If a child is hesitant to give a phone number, predators can use caller ID to determine the telephone number of the child who is calling. Some even obtain toll-free numbers or instruct a child to call collect so their potential victims can call without their parents finding out. In each of these instances, an adult who is seeking to exploit a child can get their phone number to determine the child’s full name and home address.

Unsolicited Mail and Gifts

Your child receives mail, gifts or packages from someone you don’t know. As part of the grooming process, it is common for predators to send letters, photographs and gifts to their potential victims. Some even send an airline ticket so the child can travel across the country to meet them.

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Concealing Computer Content

Your child hides what they are doing on the computer. When a child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor, they are attempting to conceal something. A child looking at pornographic images or having sexually explicit conversations does not want their parent or teacher to see it on the screen. When possible, keep your computer in a common area where your child’s activity can be easily monitored. Avoid allowing your child to use the computer behind closed doors.

Behavior Changes

Your child becomes withdrawn from the family. Adults who are seeking to exploit children work hard to drive a wedge between the child and their family. Any problem that a child has at home can be manipulated to make that child feel isolated from their loved ones. Children under the influence of a predator may pull away from their families or they may become withdrawn after they have been victimized sexually.

Using a Different Online Account

Your child is using an online account belonging to someone else. Even if your child already has an email account, a child predator might set up another account so they can have more privacy when they communicate. If you don't subscribe to an Internet service, your child may meet an offender while online at a friend's house or the library. Most computers come preloaded with Internet software.

Many online entities offer free email services, so email accounts can be created quickly and without cost. If your child is using an account other than the one you may have authorized, he or she may be communicating with someone who wants to keep the relationship secret. Keep in mind that your child could still meet and exchange messages with an adult while online at a friend's house, the library or at school.



behavior
CHANGES

Cyberbullying

Threats and harassment are no longer limited to playgrounds or daytime hours. The Internet now makes it possible for bullies to torment their victims in their homes at any time of day. These “cyberbullies” may use chat rooms, email, instant messaging and Web sites to embarrass, threaten or intimidate a child. Technology allows them to share gossip, spread lies or distribute embarrassing pictures to a wide audience while maintaining some anonymity. Not surprisingly, one in every 17 kids reported being threatened or harassed while using the Internet.

David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell and Janis Wolak, Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth.





Tips to protect your child against cyberbullying:

- *Tell your child not to respond to rude and harassing emails, messages and postings.*
- *Make use of the “block” or “ban” feature to block the cyberbully’s screen name or email address so that messages cannot reach your child.*
- *If your child continues to receive harassing emails, have them delete their current accounts and help them open a new one.*
- *Save the evidence in case you need proof.*
- *If a cyberbully has posted embarrassing photos or personal information about your child on a Web site, contact your Internet Service Provider for assistance, the Web site hosting the page, and if necessary, also inform local law enforcement to try to get the Web site removed.*
- *If the cyberbully is someone your child knows from school, seek the assistance of school officials to stop the harassment.*
- *Find out if your child’s school has a policy on bullying that includes cyberbullying and urge administrators to implement training and education programs to discourage bullying.*

Internet Safety Rules

When possible, establish explicit Internet Safety rules before your children begin using the computer. Children will find it easier to accept and obey rules that have already been established. Internet Safety rules will vary based on your child's age and Internet usage.

Some of those rules may not apply to your family's situation. Please develop your own rules that suit your circumstances.

Sample Internet Safety Rules

Using the computer is a privilege. To enjoy this privilege, we agree to follow these rules:

1. *Computer use is not confidential. We do not hide what we are doing on the computer.*
2. *We visit Web sites that are appropriate for our age. We do not visit Web sites or access information that are "off limits."*
3. *We don't send photos or give out personal information without permission.*
4. *We will tell our parents about any online messages we receive that make us uncomfortable.*
5. *We share an email account with our parents. We will not open or use any other email accounts.*
6. *We do not enter chat rooms without permission.*
7. *We can go online between the hours of _____ and _____.*
8. *We do not respond to instant messages from people we do not know.*
9. *These rules apply to our home computer and all other computers we use.*



Internet Safety Education

Many good resources are available at no cost to teach kids and parents about Internet Safety through Web sites, school curriculums or law enforcement agencies. Here are a few examples:

The Arizona Attorney General's Internet Safety Initiative

Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard launched a major Internet Safety Initiative to ensure aggressive prosecution of Internet crimes against children and teamed up with the NetSmartz Workshop® and Arizona Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs to provide Internet Safety education to Arizona's children.

Information on Internet Safety, including this Guide, Internet Safety DVD, Internet Safety Tips and Kids Page, are available on the Arizona Attorney General's Web site (www.azag.gov).

Kids who successfully complete the NetSmartz Internet Safety Quiz online on the Attorney General's **Kids Page** will get an official Arizona Internet Driver's License signed by Attorney General Terry Goddard.



NetSmartz Workshop (www.NetSmartz.org)

NetSmartz combines the newest technologies with the most current information to create high-impact educational activities that are well received by even the most tech-savvy kids. Parents, guardians, educators and law enforcement also have access to resources for learning and teaching about the dangers children may face online.

NetSmartz focuses on three basic rules for Internet Safety. The games and activities are designed to give children of various age groups a better understanding of the risks they could encounter online. With that understanding, they may be more receptive when you communicate your desire to protect them by setting up rules for Internet use.

i-SAFE (www.isafe.org)

i-Safe offers a K-12 curriculum and community outreach programs to parents, law enforcement and community leaders. A number of iSafe programs give students and parents opportunities to get involved in their schools and communities by teaching and promoting Internet Safety.

Common Sense Media (www.commonsense.com)

Common Sense Media, a leading children and media organization, has released a new guide, *Keeping Your Kids Internet Safe and Smart*. The guide describes challenges faced by parents online and tips for both kids and parents. It also includes helpful information on Internet gaming, downloading and social networking.

Internet Survival Tips for Kids and Teens

- 1.** *Never give any personal information to anyone you meet online.*
- 2.** *Never meet up with anyone you don't already know.*
- 3.** *Don't fill out any "fun" questionnaires that are forwarded to you, even if they're from your friends.*
- 4.** *Make sure you know everyone on your buddy list.*
- 5.** *Don't answer emails or IMs from people you don't know.*
- 6.** *There's no such thing as "private" on the Internet.*
- 7.** *Don't post pictures of yourself (but if you must, don't post sexy ones or ones showing behavior you wouldn't want your mom, teacher, boss, or potential college advisor to see).*
- 8.** *Don't send pictures of other people.*
- 9.** *Don't download content without your parents' permission.*
- 10.** *Never share your password with anyone but your parents.*

Remember that as frustrating as your parents may seem on this subject, they're only trying to keep you safe.

Internet Survival Tips for Parents and Teachers

- 1.** *Be aware and involved.*
- 2.** *Do your homework.*
- 3.** *Talk to your kids.*
- 4.** *Teach safety.*
- 5.** *Set rules.*
- 6.** *Report suspicious activity.*
- 7.** *Help kids view online information with a critical eye.*
- 8.** *View your own online habits with a critical eye.*
- 9.** *Make sure you keep channels of communication open.*
- 10.** *Embrace their world.*

**Remember, the Internet is here to stay.
It's our job to help our kids be Internet safe and smart.**

How to Talk to Your Child About Internet Safety

In a calm manner, tell your child what is dangerous about the Internet.

This can include:

- *People online who may start off friendly but then change*
- *Legal or financial harm to the family, if you “click” without getting permission*
- *Exposure to harmful material (violence or sexually explicit scenes)*

Even the youngest child can understand the old adage “don’t talk to strangers.” Teach children from an early age that this includes strangers who try to talk to them online.

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Encourage them to tell you when:

- *Someone they don’t know attempts to engage them in an online chat*
- *An inappropriate site comes up on the screen*
- *Someone harasses or threatens them online*

Make it clear that they will not lose Internet privileges or be punished if they tell you.

Teach your children the difference between “pretend” and “reality” on the Internet. Children often like to pretend to be someone else online because it gives them anonymity. They need to realize that predators can also pretend to be someone else to lure their victims.



Children need to know that the rules and values they live by in their daily lives apply to Internet use.

Don't just tell your children what they **can't** do. Discuss the advantages of the Internet and encourage your children to visit sites that benefit them.

Make a point to sit with your children and see the sites they like to visit. Point out the sites you think are good and calmly explain why you think a site is inappropriate.

Your children must understand that just as you decide what movies they are allowed to see, you will supervise their online activities with the same care and concern.



Internet Safety: Some Closing Thoughts

- **You don't have to become a computer expert.** *However, you can't afford to be ignorant of computers and computer terminology if you want to keep your child safe on the Internet. You owe it to them to supervise and control their use of this powerful technology.*
- **Be on the lookout for advances in technology.** *You should periodically review your existing parental controls. Make sure they are still appropriate and update them when necessary.*
- **Be sure to report any suspicious activity immediately.** *If you suspect contact with an online sexual predator, turn off your computer to preserve any evidence for law enforcement use. Unless told to do so by law enforcement, do not make any copies of images or text found on the computer. If it is an issue of harassment, make sure to save the original message. A printed copy is not as useful to law enforcement as the original or forwarded message.*
- **Spend time with your kids, online and offline.** *Remember, the computer is a great communication tool, but you are an even better one. The best way to make sure your children aren't getting into trouble on the Internet or anywhere else in their lives is to stay engaged with them.*
- **Monitor your kids while you teach them Internet Safety.** *It isn't snooping, it's caring.*



Resources

Arizona Attorney General's Office **www.azag.gov**
602.542.5025 (800.352.8431 outside Phoenix and Tucson)

Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
www.azicac.org

ChildhelpUSA **www.childhelpusa.org**
24 Hour Child Abuse Crisis Counseling
1.800.4ACHILD (1.800.422.4453)

Common Sense Media **www.commonsense.com**

Community Information and Referral **www.cirs.org**
602.263.8856 (800.352.3792 within area codes 520 and 928)

GetNetWise **www.getnetwise.org**

i-SAFE **www.isafe.org**

Internet Fraud Complaint Center **www.ic3.gov**

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
www.missing.org

CyberTipline **www.cybertipline.com** or
1.800.THE.LOST (1.800.843.5678)

NetSmartz Workshop **www.netsmartz.org**

State of Arizona Department of Public
Safety Sex Offender InfoCenter
www.az.gov/webapp/offender/main.do



ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Fraud Fighters

PROTECTING ARIZONA CONSUMERS

The Attorney General's Community Services Program includes **Satellite Offices** and the **Fraud Fighter Van**. Satellite Offices make it easier for residents to get information on consumer fraud and civil and victims' rights issues in their own neighborhoods. Volunteers are available to make educational presentations to community groups and distribute materials at local events.

Satellite Offices are located throughout Arizona. A complete list of locations and schedule of events are posted on the Community Services page of the Attorney General's Web site.

The **Fraud Fighter Van** is the newest tool to bring services and information to senior centers, libraries and neighborhoods. The Fraud Fighter Van is filled with information about identity theft, scam alerts, Internet safety and much more.



For more information, contact:

Community Services Program
Arizona Attorney General's Office
1275 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
602.542.2123 or 1.866.358.6661
communityservices@azag.gov

Other Consumer Publications available from the Arizona Attorney General's Office include:

- Top 10 Consumer Scams
- Fraud Fighter Accounts
- Identity Theft
- Predatory Lending

www.azag.gov